

[0062] Embodiments as described may also be carried out in the form of a computer process defined by a computer program. The computer program may be in source code form, object code form, or in some intermediate form, and it may be stored in some sort of carrier, which may be any entity or device capable of carrying the program. For example, the computer program may be stored on a computer program distribution medium readable by a computer or a processor. The computer program medium may be, for example but not limited to, a record medium, computer memory, read-only memory, electrical carrier signal, telecommunications signal, and software distribution package, for example. Coding of software for carrying out the embodiments as shown and described is well within the scope of a person of ordinary skill in the art.

[0063] Even though the invention has been described above with reference to an example according to the accompanying drawings, it is clear that the invention is not restricted thereto but can be modified in several ways within the scope of the appended claims. Therefore, all words and expressions should be interpreted broadly and they are intended to illustrate, not to restrict, the embodiment. It will be obvious to a person skilled in the art that, as technology advances, the inventive concept can be implemented in various ways. Further, it is clear to a person skilled in the art that the described embodiments may, but are not required to, be combined with other embodiments in various ways.

1. A method, comprising:

detecting, by a node of a first wireless network, that at least one overlapping second wireless network is configured to apply contention periods and contention-free periods for communicating with different subsets of devices;

detecting that a contention period timing applied by the at least one overlapping second wireless network is not aligned with a contention period timing applied by the node of the first wireless network; and

causing a modification of the contention period timing in at least one of the wireless networks in order to have the contention periods to take place at least partly at the same time in each overlapping wireless network.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

causing a reception of a timing-related information element from at least one overlapping second wireless network, wherein the information element indicates the contention period timing in the corresponding overlapping second wireless network.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the information element is comprised in an advertisement message.

4. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

detecting that the indicated contention period timing is acceptable for use in the first wireless network;

modifying the contention period timing of the first wireless network on the basis of the indicated contention period timing; and

including an indication of the changed contention period timing in a next advertisement message.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

upon deciding to change the contention period timing of the first wireless network, causing a transmission of a proposal message to the at least one second wireless network, wherein the proposal message includes a proposal of the new contention period timing.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein there is a plurality of overlapping second wireless networks, the method further comprising:

detecting that the contention period timings in the plurality of second wireless networks are aligned with each other; and

modifying the contention period timing of the first wireless network on the basis of the contention period timing in the plurality of second wireless network.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein there is a plurality of overlapping second wireless networks, the method further comprising:

detecting that the contention period timing in at least one of the second wireless networks is not aligned with the contention period timing in the rest of the second wireless networks; and

selecting one of the detected contention period timings;

causing a transmission of a proposal message to the plurality of second wireless network, wherein the proposal message includes a proposal of the selected contention period timing and an indication that the selected contention period timing is proposed in order to solve a contention period timing conflict among the plurality of second wireless networks.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

causing a reception of an indication indicating that the selected contention period timing cannot be applied in at least one of the plurality of second wireless networks; and

selecting another detected contention period timing and proposing that to the plurality of second wireless networks.

9. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

causing the transmission of the proposal message during a contention period of that second wireless network whose contention period timing is to be changed.

10. An apparatus, comprising:

at least one processor and at least one memory including a computer program code, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are configured, with the at least one processor, to cause a node of a first wireless network at least to:

detect that at least one overlapping second wireless network is configured to apply contention periods and contention-free periods for communicating with different subsets of devices;

detect that a contention period timing applied by the at least one overlapping second wireless network is not aligned with a contention period timing applied by the node of the first wireless network; and

cause a modification of the contention period timing in at least one of the wireless networks in order to have the contention periods to take place at least partly at the same time in each overlapping wireless network.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are configured, with the at least one processor, to cause the node of the first wireless network further to:

cause a reception of a timing-related information element from at least one overlapping second wireless network, wherein the information element indicates the contention period timing in the corresponding overlapping second wireless network.